



**Committee on
Homeland Security Democrats**
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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**Statement from Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member,
House Committee on Homeland Security**

*Congressman Applauds the President's Move to Finally
Take Control of the Disaster Response*

"I applaud the President for taking charge of the situation because the statements of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Director Michael Brown did not reflect the level of concern that was necessary.

"International calls offering help have come to my Mississippi office from Venezuela and Cuba because they see that something needs to be done.

"This is the United States of America. We have the capacity to respond in a timely manner—but that hasn't happened so far. It's like they brought a squirt gun to put out a forest fire."